IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants have attached to this Amendment documents entitled "Amended Claims" and "'Marked-up' Copy of the Previous Claims". Please replace present claims 1-7 in this application with amended claims 1-7 shown in the document entitled "Amended Claims". Please add new claim 8 as shown in the document entitled "Amended Claims".

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to correct improper multiple dependencies. As so amended, the claims are submitted as appearing in proper multiple dependent form. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

AUTHORIZATION

No additional fee is believed to be necessary.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 33808.147.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby

authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 33808.147.

Respectfully submitted,
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:______________________________

Frederick F. Calvetti, Reg. No. 28,557
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 659-2811
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

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MARKED UP COPY OF THE PREVIOUS CLAIMS

09/831575

JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 MAY 2001

CLAIMS

1. Process for producing fluorinated polymers by miniemulsion polymerization in two stages comprising

a) [the] emulsification of a mixture of monomers comprising:

from 20 to 99.9% by weight of at least one monomer [chosen] selected from fluorinated (meth)acrylic monomers (A),

from 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one monomer [chosen] selected from acrylamide and its [derivatives] compounds, including [such as] N-methylolacrylamide, and

from 0 to 65% by weight of at least one monomer [chosen] selected from nonfluorinated acrylic or vinyl monomers (B),

using energetic emulsifying [means] treatment, [such as] including ultrasound, colloid mill or high-pressure homogenizer, and

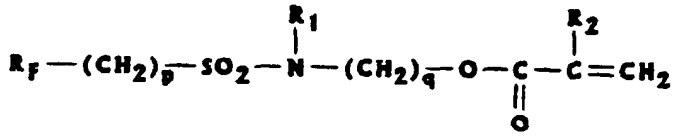
b) [the] polymerization of the said mixture at a temperature ranging from 20 to 100°C using radical initiators,

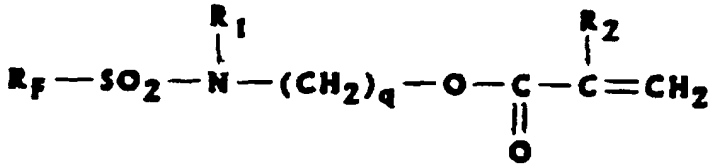
the level of organic cosolvent being less than 0.2% by weight of the total weight of the emulsion.

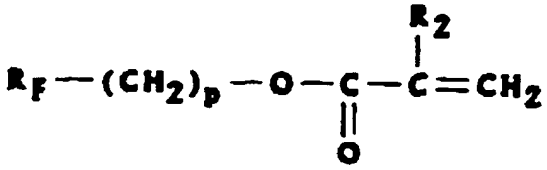
2. Process according to Claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the mixture of monomers is stabilized by at least one surfactant [chosen] selected

from the group comprising nonionic, anionic or cationic surfactants, [such as] including polyethoxylated sulphosuccinate [derivatives] compounds or quaternary ammonium [derivatives] compounds.

3. Process according to Claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the fluorinated monomer A is [chosen] selected from the group comprising the monomers corresponding to the following formulae:







in which R_F represents a perfluorinated radical with a linear or branched chain comprising 2 to 20 carbon atoms, p and q, which are identical or different, each represent an integer ranging from 1 to 20 [and preferably from 1 to 4], R_1 represents a linear or branched alkyl radical comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms and R_2 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl radical.

4. Process according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the monomer B is [chosen] selected from the group comprising:

- C_1-C_{22} alkyl (meth)acrylates

- (meth)acrylates, the radical of which carries an oxyethylenated linkage

- vinyl monomers, [such as] including vinyl chloride or vinyl acetate

- acrylic and methacrylic acids.

5. Process according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the initiator is [chosen] selected from the group comprising:

- peroxides

- persalts, [such as] including persulphates

- azo compounds, such as 4,4'-azobis (4-cyanopentanoic acid).

6. Aqueous dispersion [of] comprising fluorinated polymers [as may be] obtained according to the process of [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, the content of organic cosolvent of which is less than 0.2% by weight of the total weight of the emulsion and the level of coagulum being less than 1% by weight of the total weight of monomers.

7. [Application of the aqueous dispersion of Claim 6 in the] [h]Hydrophobic and oleophobic treatment of [various] substrates comprising treatment of, [such as] leather, textiles, fitted carpets, paper and construction materials with an aqueous dispersion of the polymer of claim 6.

- vinyl monomers, including vinyl chloride or vinyl acetate

- acrylic and methacrylic acids.

5. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the initiator is selected from the group comprising:

- peroxides

- persalts, including persulphates

- azo compounds, such as 4,4'-azobis (4-cyanopentanoic acid).

6. (Amended) Aqueous dispersion of fluorinated polymers obtained according to the process of claim 1, the content of organic cosolvent of which is less than 0.2% by weight of the total weight of the emulsion and the level of coagulum being less than 1% by weight of the total weight of monomers.

7. (Amended) Hydrophobic and oleophobic treatment of substrates comprising treatment of, leather, textiles, fitted carpets, paper and construction materials with an aqueous dispersion of the polymer of claim 6.

8. (New) Process according to claim 3, wherein the integer is from 1 to 4.

8. (New) Process according to claim 3, wherein the integer is from 1 to 4.